Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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SECRETTOKYO 5079

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, UNGA, EGEN, CB

SUBJECT: GKR PROGRAM OF CONTACTS BEFORE 29TH UNGA: AFRICA

REF: PHNOM PENH 5380

SUMMARY: GKR HAS ASKED GOJ TO HELP ARRANGE VISIT OF GKR DELEGATION TO AFRICAN NATIONS TO PUT THEIR CASE ON REPRESENTATION AT UNGA. GOJ IS STUDYING REQUEST BUT IS RELUCTANT TO CONSENT. END SUMMARY

1. IN LIGHT OF MAJOR ROLE PLAYED BY GOJ ON KHMER QUESTION AT 28TH UNGA, EMBOFF CALLED ON FONOFF UN POL AFFAIRS DEP HEAD NONOYAMA TO INFORM HIM OF GKR PLANS TO IMPROVE ITS DIPLOMATIC POSITION WITH ME COUNTRIES (REFTEL). NONOYAMA BETRAYED SOME RELIEF WHEN IN ANSWER TO HIS QUESTIONS EMBOFF INDICATED THAT OUR APPROACH WAS INTENDED TO CONVEY INFORMATION AND NOT FORMALLY SEEK GOJ SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE FOR GKR MISSION TO ME. IT QUICKLY BECAME APPARENT THAT REASON FOR NONOYAMA'S "RFLIEF" WAS THAT GKR HAS ASKED GOJ, THROUGH JAPANESE EMBASSY PHNOM PENH, TO ARRANGE FOR SIMILAR MISSION TO VISIT AFRICAN COUNTRIES. FONOFF HAD NOT, RPT NOT, BEEN PREVIOUSLY AWARE OF MISSION TO ME.

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2. FONMIN KEUKY LIM HAD EXPLAINED TO JAPANESE AMBASSADOR

THAT GKR DOES NOT HAVE DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN MOST AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND THEREFORE ASKED IF JAPANESE EMBASSIES COULD APPROACH HOST GOVERNMENTS TO SEEK PERMISSION FOR VISIT OF GKR DELEGATION. INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES WERE NOT SPECIFIED. NONOYAMA SAID TELEGRAM REPORTING THIS REQUEST HAD ARRIVED IN TOKYO APRIL 13 AND FONOFF IS ACTIVELY STUDYING IT. KEUKY LIM STOPPED OVER IN TOKYO NIGHT OF APRIL 16 BUT BY MUTUAL AGREEMENT AND BECAUSE THIS WAS STRICTLY REST STOP HE DID NOT HAVE CONTACT WITH GOJ OFFICIALS.

3. NONOYAMA EXPLAINED THAT FONOFF IS VERY RELUCTANT TO AGREE TO GKR REQUEST. HE SAID GKR APPARENTLY SOME-WHAT MISUNDERSTOOD GOJ ACTIONS ON KHMER ISSUE AT 28TH UNGA, INTERPRETING THEM AS DIRECT SUPPORT FOR LON NOL GOVERNMENT. IN FACT, NONOYAMA SAID, GOJ HAD BEEN CAREFUL TO STAND BEHIND AND SUPPORT EFFORTS OF ASEAN NATIONS SINCE MORE DIRECT JAPANESE INVOLVEMENT WOULD HAVE BEEN DISCOUNTED BY MANY NATIONS AS BEING SIMPLY DICTATED BY US. MOREOVER, REATIONALE FOR GOJ ACTION WAS BASED ON CONVICTION THAT UN SHOULD NOT INTERFERE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF MEMBER COUNTRIES. AND WAS NOT THEREFORE MEANT AS SUPPORT FOR LON NOL PER SE. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES, NONOYAMA SAID FONOFF IS "EMBARRASSED" BY GKR REQUEST, BUT BELIEVES IT SHOULD NOT REJECT IT DIRECTLY. ONE POSSIBILITY WOULD BE TO SUGGEST THAT GKR APPROACH MALAYSIANS INSTEAD. EMBOFF INQUIRED IF GOJ MIGHT NOT BE WILLING TO ACT ON BEHALF OF GKR IF APPROACH TO AFRICAN NATIONS COULD BE MADE JOINTLY, WITH FOR EXAMPLE MALAYSIA. NONOYAMA AGREED THIS WAS POSSIBILITY BUT SAID FONOFF EXPERIENCE IN PAST HAD BEEN THAT ASEAN NATIONS, EVEN WHEN GOVERNMENTS AGREED TO SUCH PROCEDURE, EITHER FAILED TO INSTRUCT THEIR DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN PRECISE AND TIMELY WAY OR, AS WAS CASE WITH INDONESIA ON KHMER QUESTION AT 28TH UNGA, INSTRUCTED THEIR MISSIONS NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY JOINT APPROACH TO HOST GOVERNMENTS

4. NONOYAMA STRESSED THAT FONOFF IS STILL STUDYING GKR REQUEST, AND HE PROMISED TO INFORM US OF FINAL SECRET

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DECISION. QUERY: DOES DEPARTMENT WISH EMBASSY TO TAKE FURTHER ACTION WITH FONOFF WITH RESPECT TO GOJ ASSISTANCE ON ANY FACET OF GKR CAMPAIGN TO IMPROVE DIPLOMATIC POSTION?

5. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO REPEAT THIS MESSAGE TO OTHER POSTS.

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